

— FROM : RICK'S REF&HEATING  
02/09/2004 09:15 3178828022

FAX NO. : 4193993982

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MARK IV ENVIRONMENTA

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(1)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application:  
Mark A. Staabury  
Serial No. 10/669,829  
Filed September 24, 2003  
FURNACE MOUNT AND METHOD  
OF INSTALLATION

} Before the Examiner  
}  
}  
}{ Group Art Unit 3632  
}{ Our Ref.: 27028-5

## DECLARATION OF RICK ELSTON

I, Rick Elston, hereby swear and affirm as follows:

1. I am the owner of Rick's Heating & Air Conditioning. My business is located in Paulding Ohio. Our business installs and replaces gas furnaces.
2. In particular, our company has purchased and used the NSA Products, Inc. Furnace Mounting Blocks. Such Furnace Mounting Blocks are the type generally illustrated in the drawings labeled Figs. 5-10 and attached here as Exhibit A.
3. Prior to NSA Products' furnace mounting block, I had never seen a light-weight furnace mounting block system of this type for elevating the furnace from the floor.
4. I consider the Furnace Mounting Block of NSA Products to be a fabulous invention. The Furnace Mounting Block system as compared to previous techniques, such as utilizing masonry blocks to hold the furnace off of the floor, leads to a significantly enhanced installation. The Furnace Mounting Block also improves the quality of the installer's work day by eliminating the need to carry heavy masonry blocks to the job site and affording in many jobs the option to

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slide the furnace into position while seated on the furnace mounting blocks. When using masonry blocks the furnace and masonry blocks move separately when the furnace is adjusted into place. With the NSA Furnace Mounting Blocks the blocks and the furnace move together as one unit. Thereby, providing an installation time saving of about fifteen minutes for many installations.

5. In my experience, prior to NSA Products' Furnace Mounting Blocks, utilization of masonry blocks to install a furnace was a given - it was just the way it was done.

6. NSA Products' Furnace Mounting Block provides a simple but powerful solution to the problems associated with mounting furnaces above the floor. Because of the many benefits associated with the product, our company has adopted the Furnace Mounting Blocks as our preferred means for mounting furnaces above the floor.

7. Other than being a satisfied customer, I have no financial interest in NSA Products or its patent application.

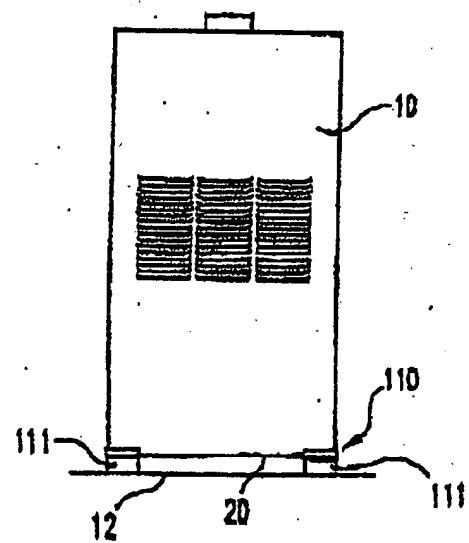
8. I, being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001, declare that the facts set forth in the Declaration are true; all statements made of my own knowledge are true; and all statements made on information are believed to be true.

Date:

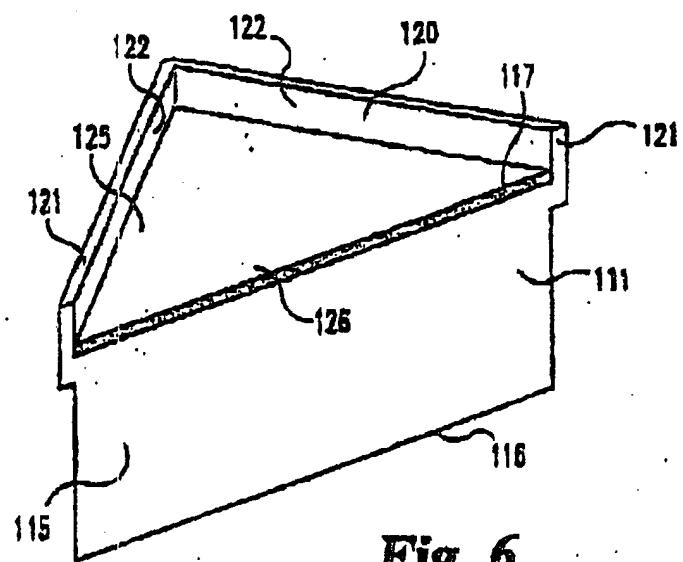
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By:

Rick Elston



**Fig. 5**



**Fig. 6**

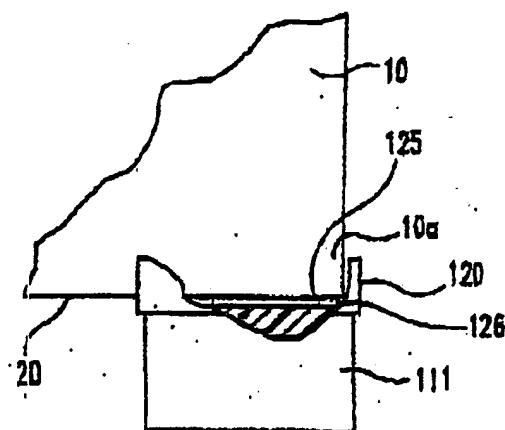


Fig. 7

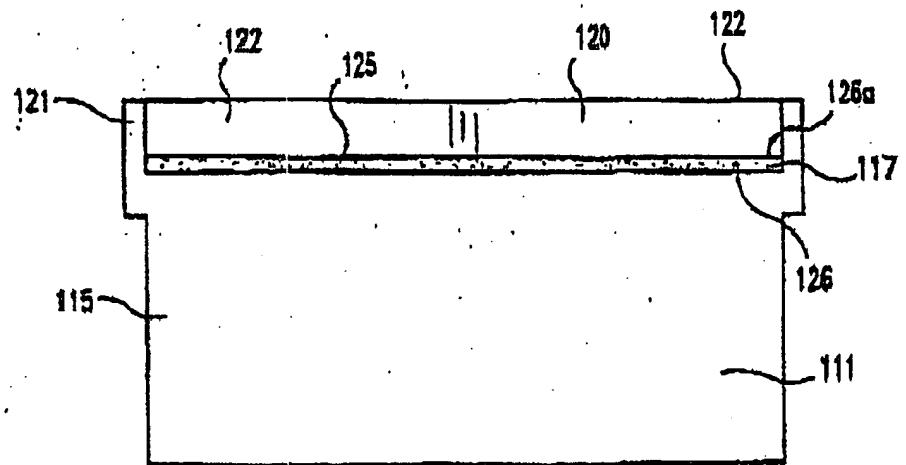
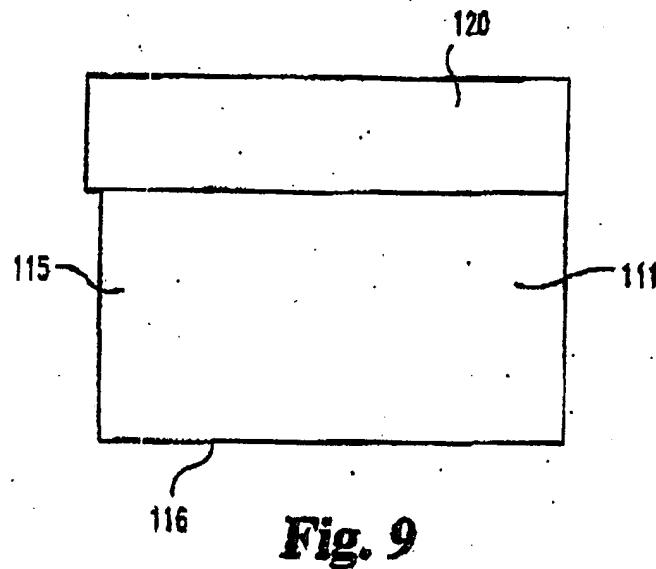
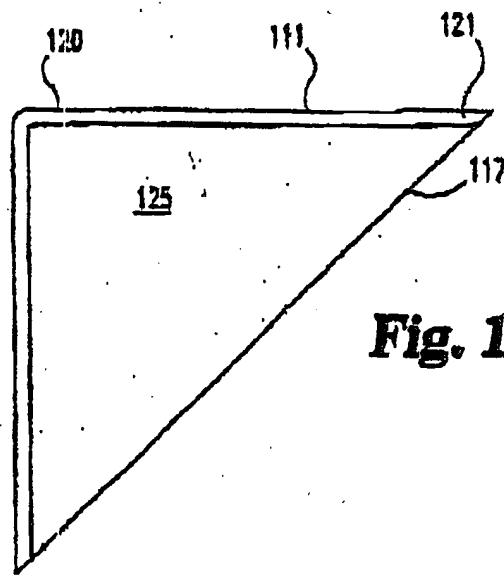


Fig. 8



**Fig. 9**



**Fig. 10**